

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Members, if I can have your attention, while the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LR 39 and (LR) 40. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, the Banking, Commerce, and Insurance Committee, chaired by Senator Landis, reports on the appointment of Mr. Samuel Baird.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Members, if we can have your attention, we'll start today's activities.

SENATOR LANDIS: Am I called upon, Mr. Speaker? You're waiting. Okay.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you. Senator Landis, you're recognized on your confirmation report of the Banking Committee.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. We held, earlier this week, a public hearing on the appointment of Sam Baird of Superior, Nebraska, as the Director of Banking and Finance. Sam has been a local banker in that area for many years and was one of the very first interstate banking organizations in Nebraska except, unlike what we had anticipated, which was that other states' banks would come into Nebraska, Sam took advantage of our Interstate Commerce Banking Act to take on some holdings in the north Kansas area, so he is the head of a bank holding company in that area. He has a wide variety of community activities: the Nebraska Educational Finance Authority, the Republican River Advisory Commission, the Independent College Foundation, and more. I will say that I was asked by Senator Byars, once the hearing was over, an interesting question, and that was what happens to the holdings of a Banking director. And, frankly, I thought that they were put into a blind trust. I asked the Bankers Association what the situation was and we have a special section of law, Section 8-103. It says that the Director of Banking and Finance may, quote, be financially interested, directly or indirectly, in any financial institution doing business in Nebraska, and that's the situation here.